

NO. 15
AND

Popular Teen-Agers

10¢

Secrets
Of



Love

JUST YOU AND I,
HONEY—ALL OUR
LIVES!

OH DARLING, I'VE
BEEN WANTING YOU
TO KISS ME FOR SO
LONG!

MY SUBDUED LONGING FOR A LITTLE
HAPPINESS SUDDENLY GAVE WAY
AND I WAS IN HIS ARMS....

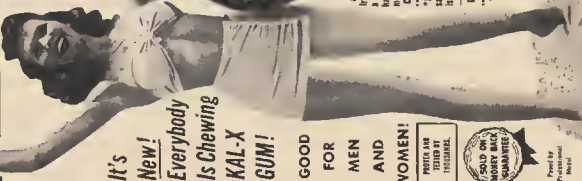
I WAS STARVED FOR
LOVE!



WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

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DON'T BE FAT!



It's
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Everybody
Is Chewing
KAL-X
GUM!

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FOR
MEN
AND
WOMEN!

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MADE IN
THE U.S.A.



Printed and
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in
New York

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LOSE FAT OR MONEY BACK!
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THOUSANDS
PRAISE
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FATTENING FOODS!
THEY'RE DELICIOUS!



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Portland, Oregon

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*You are independent and, of course, very...
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KAL-X GUM CO., Dept. 44-A,
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*"LOST 21 POUNDS ALREADY!"
V. G.
Newark, N. J.

*"LOST 18 POUNDS ON THE FIRST BOX!"
G. B.
Vidor, Texas

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All my friends think I'm a miracle! I lost 21 lbs. in 10 days! W. W.
Chicago, Ill.
*My doctor says KAL-X is the best! P. B.
Erling, La.
THANKS
GLEN
KAL-X!

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PROVEN AND TESTED BY THOUSANDS!—THOUSANDS PRAISE KAL-X!—PROVEN AND TESTED BY THOUSANDS!

FOR A LONG TIME ANDREA STOOD HOLDING THE DIVORCE PAPERS IN TREMBLING FINGERS. EVEN NOW SHE WAS UNWILLING TO BELIEVE IT WAS ALL TRUE, THAT JIM HAD REALLY LEFT FOR GOOD, AND ALL BECAUSE FATE HAD TWISTED A HARMLESS AFFAIR INTO A----

SCANDAL

OH JIM! JIM! YOU CAN'T MEAN IT! YOU CAN'T JUST CAST ME ASIDE AFTER ALL WE'VE MEANT TO EACH OTHER!



AND THEN BECAUSE I KNEW JIM HAD DONE JUST THAT--HAD MADE ME A CLOSED CHAPTER IN HIS LIFE, I GAVE WAY COMPLETELY TO MY FRUSTRATIONS---

OH, I HATE YOU!
I HATE YOU!



I'LL RUIN EVERYTHING THAT REMINDS ME OF YOU!



OH! (SOB)
OH! OH! OH!



IN MY MISERY I BLAMED MORGAN HARROWER. BLAMED HIM AND THE SOPHISTICATED BEACH CLUB SET I HAD BELONGED TO BEFORE I MARRIED JIM BALLARD---

YOU KNOW, ANDREA, I MAY EVEN DECIDE TO MARRY YOU SOMETIME!

WHAT A WAY TO PROPOSE, MORGAN!



MORGAN LAUGHED. "DON'T GET YOUR UP," HE SAID, "I'M JUST SHOPPING AROUND. LET ME TRY YOUR LIPS FOR SIZE." WE KISSED AS WE DANCED. NO ONE EVEN NOTICED, FOR NO ONE IN OUR CROWD TOOK LOVE SERIOUSLY.



AND THEN I MET JIM BALLARD AND THE WORLD ASSUMED A WHOLE NEW APPEARANCE. LIFE TOOK ON A NEW HUE. OUT THE WINDOW WENT MY VENEER OF SOPHISTICATION. I WAS IN LOVE! I HAD MET MY MAN. AND ONE NIGHT HE SAID---

ANDREA, I LOVE YOU! WILL YOU HONOR ME BY BECOMING MY WIFE!

OH JIM, NEED YOU ASK?



IN MY SET A KISS HAD MEANT NO MORE THAN THE TRADING OF LIPS FOR THE THRILL IT BROUGHT. NOW WHEN JIMS LIPS MET MINE MY SOUL STIRRED WITH A NEW HAPPINESS THAT I CANNOT DESCRIBE IN MERE WORDS.



JIM AND I WERE MARRIED THAT FALL IN A MAGNIFICENT CHURCH WEDDING. I SOON FOUND OUT THAT I HAD MARRIED NOT ONLY A HUSBAND, BUT A WHOLE FAMILY TRADITION.

I WAS PARTICULARLY AWED BY JIM'S MOTHER---

YOU REALIZE, OF COURSE, MY DEAR, HOW FORTUNATE YOU ARE IN BECOMING A BALLARD...



AND JIM HIMSELF COULD BE TERRIBLY OVERBEARING AT TIMES---

ANDREA, THAT GOWN WON'T DO AT ALL! WE'RE MEETING SOME OF THE FINEST FAMILIES TONIGHT!

I'M SORRY, JIM. I'LL CHANGE IT!



IN SPITE OF IT ALL, HOWEVER, I LOVED JIM DEVOTEDLY, AND IN TIME I GREW AS PROUD OF HIS FAMILY AS HE WAS. IF ONLY IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR THAT ONE CHANCE MEETING! I HAD BEEN SHOPPING ONE DAY, ALMOST A YEAR AFTER OUR MARRIAGE---

I MUST HURRY HOME! I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS SO LATE!



FOR SOME MINUTES I TRIED VAINLY TO START THE CAR, AND THEN TURNED AWAY IN EXASPERATION, AND CAME FACE TO FACE WITH---

MORGAN HORROWER!

I THOUGHT IT WAS AN ANGEL, AND IT TURNED OUT TO BE JUST YOU!



MORGAN INSISTED ON DRIVING ME HOME, AND I MUST ADMIT I FELT A CERTAIN EXCITEMENT IN BEING WITH HIM ONCE MORE.

ARE YOU STILL TRUE TO YOUR HUSBAND?

OH, MORGAN, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT!



MANY TIMES IN THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED I REGRETTED THAT MEETING, BUT THAT DAY MORGAN'S BUBBLING PERSONALITY WAS REFRESHING.

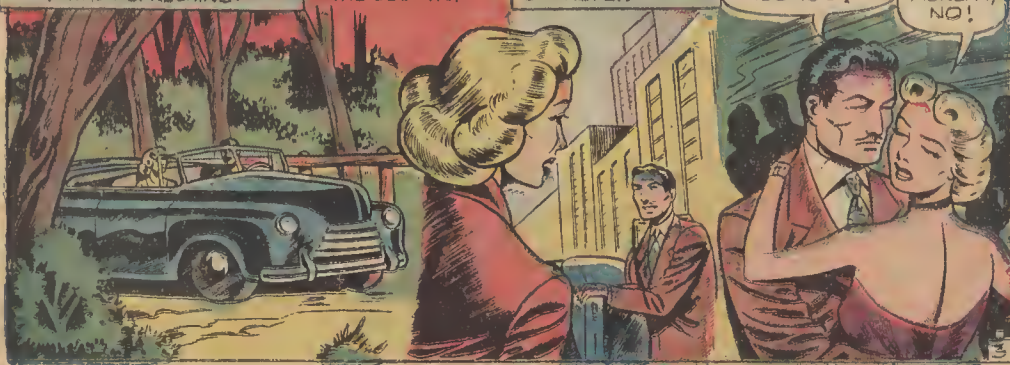
MORGAN DID NOT GO STRAIGHT HOME, BUT TOOK ME FOR A GORGEOUS DRIVE IN THE COUNTRY.

NOR WAS THAT THE ONLY TIME I DATED MORGAN. I BEGAN MEETING HIM SECRETLY.

AND I SUPPOSE WHAT HAPPENED WAS INEVITABLE--

I'M GOING TO KISS YOU!

NO, MORGAN, NO!

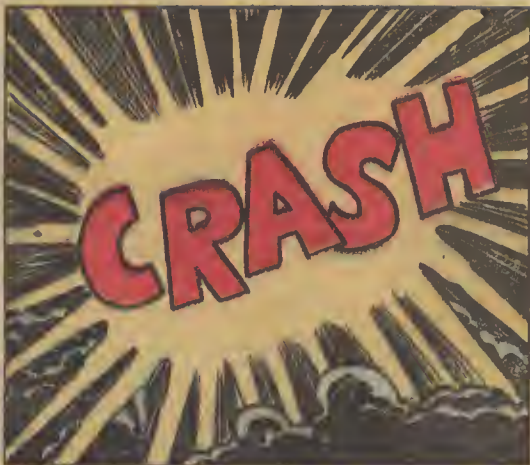


IN THE DAYS BEFORE MY MARRIAGE, I SUPPOSE I WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED MORGAN IF HE HAD ASKED ME TO MARRY HIM. BUT WE WERE NOT IN LOVE. ON THE WAY HOME, I CAME TO A DECISION----

MORGAN, THIS IS OUR LAST DATE. I'M NOT BEING FAIR TO EITHER JIM, OR YOU!

IF THIS IS THE END, THEN I AM GOING TO KISS YOU!

LOOK OUT, YOU FOOL!



I WILL NOT GO INTO THE ORDEAL OF FACING JIM, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT HE LEFT ME AT ONCE. AND NOW I WAS IN COURT, AND WAS BEING BRANDED WORD BY WORD IN TESTIMONY-----

YOU SAY HARROWER'S CAR STRUCK YOURS? WHAT WOULD YOU GIVE AS THE REASON?

THAT'S NOT TRUE!

HARROWER WAS KISSING MRS. BALLARD!



I WAS TRYING TO PREVENT MORGAN HARROWER FROM KISSING ME!

ORDER--- ORDER!

HA-HA-HA-HA!



THE MONTHS FOLLOWING THE DIVORCE WERE A NIGHTMARE, AND I BECAME OBSESSED WITH A DESIRE FOR REVENGE. ON OUR SECOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY---

NO MAM. MR BALLARD IS AT HIS HUNTING LODGE IN THE MOUNTAINS!

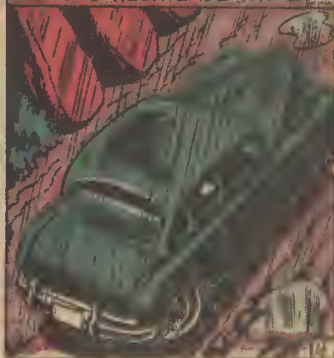
THANK YOU!...



THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO KNOW----



LATE THE NEXT AFTERNOON I WAS DRIVING UP IN THE MOUNTAIN ROAD. I KNEW THE WAY--JIM AND I HAD ONCE SPENT MANY GLORIOUS WEEK-ENDS THERE.



I PARKED MY CAR FAR OFF THE ROAD AND OUT OF SIGHT OF THE LODGE---



THE LODGE WAS DARK, SO I KNEW JIM PROBABLY WAS OFF IN THE WOODS. BUT I STILL HAD MY KEY TO THE DOOR--- I WOULD WAIT FOR HIS RETURN---



NOW WHY DOESN'T THE KEY FIT?

BECAUSE THE LOCK HAS BEEN CHANGED, ANDREA.

OH! YOU FRIGHTENED ME! I-I JUST WANTED TO GET--- S-SOME THING I LEFT HERE!

I'LL GET THEM FOR YOU. COME IN OUT OF THE RAIN.

THANK YOU. I'LL DO IT NOW! NO NEED TO GO INSIDE!

AT THAT MOMENT---

AIEEECH!

CRASH



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? COME IN UNTIL THE STORM IS OVER!

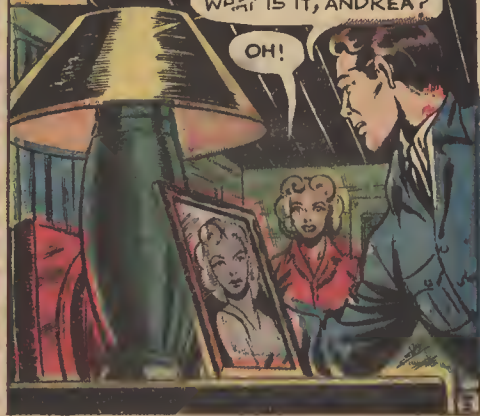
THANK YOU JIM!



SHAKEN, I FOLLOWED JIM INSIDE. HE LIT THE LAMP.

WHAT IS IT, ANDREA?

OH!



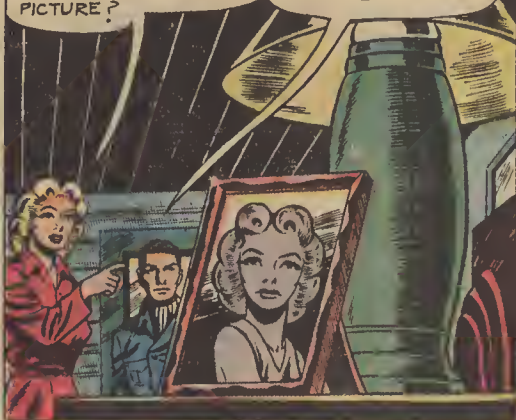
HAVEN'T YOU EVER
COME TO THE LODGE
--SINCE--WELL, SINCE--

NOT SINCE LAST
SPRINGS TROUT
FISHING. WHY?



THEN...THEN WHY DO
YOU STILL HAVE--- MY
PICTURE?

HHMM---WELL, I'LL
TELL YOU----



BECAUSE I LIKE TO DREAM. I---
I'VE BEEN UNABLE TO FORGET
YOU. I THOUGHT I'D ABOUT
BEATEN IT, BUT YOU'VE SPOILED
ALL THAT BY COMING HERE!

OH, JIM! OH JIM!



DO YOU
WANT TO
TRY
AGAIN?

JIM---DON'T! DO
YOU KNOW WHY I
CAME HERE? I
CAME TO KILL
YOU!



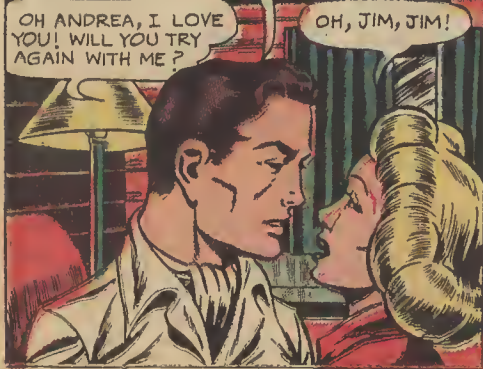
I DID, JIM! I WAS GOING TO
KILL YOU AND THEN MYSELF!
BECAUSE I COULDN'T STAND
HAVING YOU BELIEVE WHAT YOU
DID! MORGAN HARROWER AND
I NEVER CARED FOR EACH
OTHER! BUT I WAS WRONG! I KNOW
NOW I SHOULD NEVER HAVE
SEEN HIM, NO MATTER HOW INNO-
CENTLY!



I WAS WRONG, TOO, ANDREA. GOD ONLY
KNOWS HOW WRONG! IN MY OWN SELF-RIGH-
TEOUSNESS I LOST MY HUMANITY! BUT I TOO
PAID, IN LONELINESS!

OH ANDREA, I LOVE
YOU! WILL YOU TRY
AGAIN WITH ME?

OH, JIM, JIM!



ONCE MORE MY HEART WAS SINGING, BUT AS
THE SWEETNESS OF JIM'S LIPS MET MINE, I
TREMBLED TO THINK WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPEN-
ED. PERHAPS GOD SENT US THE LIGHTNING TO
SHOW US THE LIGHT!



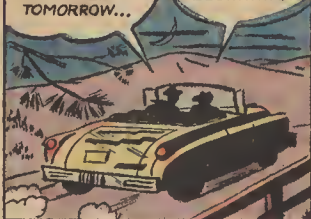
MY TEN CENT LOVE..

REMEMBER THE IMMORTAL WORDS OF OSCAR WILDE? "EACH MAN KILLS THE THING HE LOVES BUT EACH MAN DOES NOT DIE"... WELL, I KILLED THE ONE GREAT LOVE OF MY LIFE JUST AS SURELY AS IF I'D DONE IT WITH A SWORD... I STRUCK IT DOWN WITH SUSPICIONS, MORTALLY WOUNDED IT WITH GREED AND RENDERED THE COUP DE GRACE WITH RIDICULE...

I MET DAVID AT A Y.M.C.A. DANCE. HE WAS IN THE NAVY, STATIONED DOWN SOUTH, AND WAS JUST PASSING THROUGH TOWN... AS HE DROVE HE HOME, I WAS SURE HE WAS IN LOVE WITH ME...

WOULDN'T IT BE MY LUCK TO MEET YOU NOW? I HAVE TO RETURN TO MY SHIP THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW...

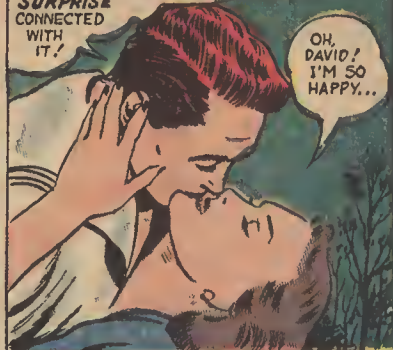
OH... I'D HOPED YOUR LIBERTY WAS JUST BEGINNING...



THE VERY NEXT NIGHT HE PROPOSED... AND I THRILLED WITH ECSTASY AS HE PLACED A RING ON MY FINGER...

MY LOVE GOES WITH THE RING, DARLING... AND THERE'S A BIG SURPRISE CONNECTED WITH IT!

OH, DAVID! I'M SO HAPPY...



I WASN'T QUITE SO HAPPY A BIT LATER... WHEN I TOLD MY SISTER...

PRUE, BELIEVE ME! I SELL THAT RING IN THE STORE FOR TEN CENTS!

THAT'S NOT TRUE... DAVID'S MOTHER LEFT HIM A LOT OF MONEY... BUT JUST TO SHOW YOU, I'LL HAVE IT APPRAISED TOMORROW!



THE VERY NEXT MORNING I VISITED THE LOCAL JEWELER...

PRUE, I HOPE THIS RING DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU... IT'S A WORTHLESS TRINKET... THE KIND THEY SELL IN THE DIME STORES!

OOOH... N-NO!



SO THAT WAS THE "SURPRISE" THE RING WOULD GIVE ME! INFURIATED, I WROTE A VEHEMENT LETTER TO DAVID... AND ENCLOSED THE RING IN THE ENVELOPE...

HOW COULD I EVER HAVE CARED FOR A CHEAP LIAR LIKE YOU"... THAT'LL FIX HIM! "GOODBYE, JERK."



THE NEXT DAY, AS I ARRIVED HOME FROM WORK, MY MOTHER CALLED TO ME... AND TOLD ME THERE WAS A PACKAGE FROM DAVID!

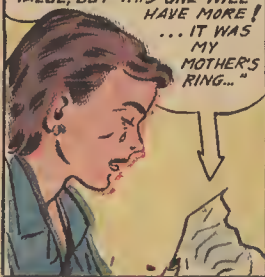
WONDER WHAT THIS IS? PROBABLY AN IMITATION BRACELET...

IT CAME BY REGISTERED MAIL, DEAR... I SIGNED FOR IT!



BREATHLESSLY, I OPENED THE PACKAGE... AND THERE, WRAPPED IN A NOTE... WAS A BEAUTIFUL DIAMOND RING!

"DEAR PRUE... HERE IS MY BIG SURPRISE! THE RING YOU ARE WEARING WILL ALWAYS HAVE GREAT SENTIMENTAL VALUE, BUT THIS ONE WILL HAVE MORE! ... IT WAS MY MOTHER'S RING..."



I PUT THROUGH A LONG DISTANCE CALL TO DAVID... AND IMPLORED HIM TO UNDERSTAND WHEN MY LETTER ARRIVED...

OH, DAVID! IT WAS A TERRIBLE MISTAKE... FORGIVE ME... I LOVE YOU SO MUCH...

I'M SORRY PRUE! IF YOU FELT THAT WAY... IT WASN'T THE KIND OF LOVE I WANT... GOODBYE...



The End

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GIRDLE COMES IN PANTS
WITH DETACHABLE
CROTCH AND REGULAR—
IT LIFTS AND
FLATTENS TUMMY, SLIMS
DOWN THE WAIST,
TRIMSHAPES
AND ELIMINATES THE
"SPARE TIRE"
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Sake
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| <input type="checkbox"/> FUN FOR BOYS.....\$1.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> WHAT YOUR DREAMS MEAN.....\$3.00 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> SIMPLEX PIANO COURSE.....1.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> LESSONS IN HYPNOTISM.....\$3.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ROUGIE-WOOGIE IS EASY.....1.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> YOU CAN LIVE TO 100.....1.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THE ART OF KISSING......50 | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC BOXING......50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MODERN LOVE LETTERS......50 | <input type="checkbox"/> POLICE JIU JITSU......50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TRUE LOVE GUIDE......50 | <input type="checkbox"/> POLICE WRESTLING......50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HOW TO DANCE......50 | <input type="checkbox"/> AMERICAN JUDO......50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SWING STEPS......50 | <input type="checkbox"/> 100 GAMES.....1.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TAP DANCING......50 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SQUARE DANCING......50 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FORTUNE TELLING BY CARDS......50 | |

Name.....

Address.....

City.....

Zone.....

State.....

Money Back If Not Satisfied After 5 Days' Trial

A TWIST OF FATE..

LOOK, BETTY, ALTHOUGH I'M NOT YET READY, WE'LL RUSH THINGS AND GET MARRIED NOW! THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, I KNOW!

I WON'T TELL HIM THE TRUTH. I'LL LET HIM CARRY ON - BELIEVING A FALSEHOOD.

A TWIST OF FATE - THE FORCE OF CIRCUMSTANCE - A MISUNDERSTOOD PHRASE - AND THE BOY I LOVED WAS ASKING ME TO MARRY HIM. HE WAS MAKING A SACRIFICE AND SHOULDERING HEAVY RESPONSIBILITIES - ALL BECAUSE HE BELIEVED THAT I NEEDED HIM DESPERATELY. I WAS TERRIBLY IN LOVE WITH HIM - AND WANTED HIM MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE "IN THE WORLD. I TOOK A CHANCE TOOK THE BOY I LOVED AS MY HUSBAND - AND MET MY DAY OF RECKONING!

IT ALL STARTED ONE DAY WHEN I RETURNED HOME FROM A VISIT WITH SOME RELATIVES IN THE COUNTRY...

THAT'S DOCTOR SMEDLEY'S CAR. I WONDER WHY IT'S PARKED IN FRONT OF OUR HOUSE. I HOPE MOTHER AND DAD ARE ALL RIGHT.

I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, BUT SOMETHING WARNS ME THERE IS BAD NEWS. OH-H-I HOPE MOTHER AND DAD ARE WELL! WHY DID I LEAVE THEM NOW? I SHOULD HAVE STAYED HOME!



MY LIFE REACHED A TURNING POINT WHEN I WALKED INTO THE HOUSE AND FOUND MOTHER SOBbing...

MOTHER, WHAT IS IT? WHAT HAPPENED? WHY ARE YOU CRYING?

OH, BETTY, I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE BACK. IT'S... SOB... YOUR FATHER

MOTHER, PLEASE GET HOLD OF YOURSELF. TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED TO DAD!

HE WORKED ON THE HOUSE OVER THE WEEK END... YOU KNOW HOW HE'S ALWAYS FIXING SOMETHING... AND HE HAD...

...A HEART ATTACK! I THOUGHT THE END HAD COME. DOCTOR SMOOLEY IS EXAMINING DAD NOW.

OH, MOTHER - HOW AWFUL!

TELL ME THE TRUTH, DOCTOR, I MUST KNOW!

MRS. CARTER, YOUR HUSBAND IS A VERY SICK MAN. HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO STAY FLAT ON HIS BACK FOR QUITE A WHILE!

WORK IS OUT OF THE QUESTION! SOMEONE WILL HAVE TO BE WITH HIM MOST OF THE TIME.

I'M GOING IN TO SEE DAD.

HELLO, DAD! YOU GAVE US A BIT OF A SCARE AT FIRST, BUT DOCTOR SMOEDLEY SAYS YOU'LL BE UP AND AROUND IN NO TIME AT ALL!

BETTY, TAKE CARE OF YOUR MOTHER FOR ME. SHE WORRIES SO MUCH.

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, DAD. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'LL TAKE CARE OF BOTH OF YOU! JUST GET WELL!

MY HEART BREAKING, I LEFT DAD AND RETURNED TO MOTHER IN THE LIVING ROOM...

SIT DOWN, BETTY. WE'LL HAVE A LONG TALK AND DECIDE JUST HOW WE'RE GOING TO ADJUST OURSELVES.

I'LL DO ANYTHING, MOTHER!

SINCE DAD WON'T BE ABLE TO WORK, IT WOULD BE BEST IF I GOT A JOB. WE'LL NEED SOME SORT OF AN INCOME.

I'M GLAD YOU SAID THAT, BETTY. YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL.

MOTHER, I KNOW THAT MOST OF OUR READY CASH HAS BEEN GOING INTO MONTHLY PAYMENTS ON THE HOUSE.

I'LL STAY HOME WITH DAD AND TAKE IN SOME KIND OF WORK.

WE'LL GET ALONG AND DAD WILL BE WELL IN NO TIME.

WE'LL HAVE TO CUT THAT DOWN A LITTLE NOW. WE'LL MEET THE INTEREST PAYMENTS AND GET A POSTPONEMENT ON THE PRINCIPAL.

EARLY THE NEXT DAY... I BEGAN THE ENDLESS ROUND OF EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES... AND OFFICES THAT ADVERTISED FOR HELP...

I'M SORRY BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING RIGHT NOW FOR SOMEONE WITH-OUT EXPERIENCE. COME BACK IN ABOUT A MONTH OR SO.

THANK YOU.

OUR TRAINEE POSITIONS ARE ALL FILLED UP, MISS CARTER. WE DO HAVE OPENINGS NOW AND THEN. LEAVE YOUR NAME WITH ME.

THANK YOU. I'LL DO THAT.

BUT OUR AD CALLED FOR GIRLS WITH SECRETARIAL EXPERIENCE. IT WOULD COST A BIT OF MONEY TO TRAIN YOU.

I KNOW... BUT A GIRL HAS TO START SOMEWHERE.

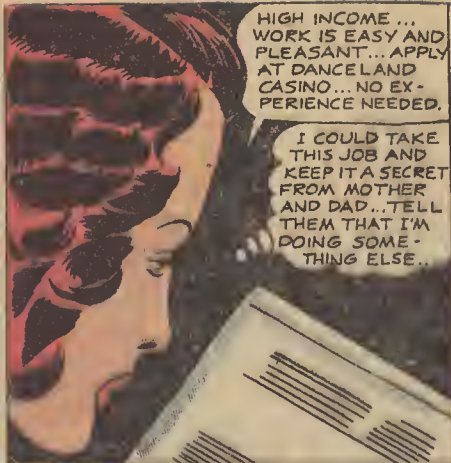
IT'S A LITTLE ROUGH NOW, ISN'T IT, KID? NOBODY SEEMS TO BE HIRING THESE DAYS.

I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW HARD IT WOULD BE! THERE'S NO PLACE FOR SOME-ONE WHO HASN'T WORKED IN AN OFFICE FOR YEARS.

DAYS AND THEN WEEKS PASSED BY AND STILL I DIDN'T HAVE A JOB. THERE WERE NO POSITIONS FOR A GIRL WITHOUT EXPERIENCE...AND OUR BANK ACCOUNT WAS GETTING SMALLER...BILLS...BILLS...BILLS.



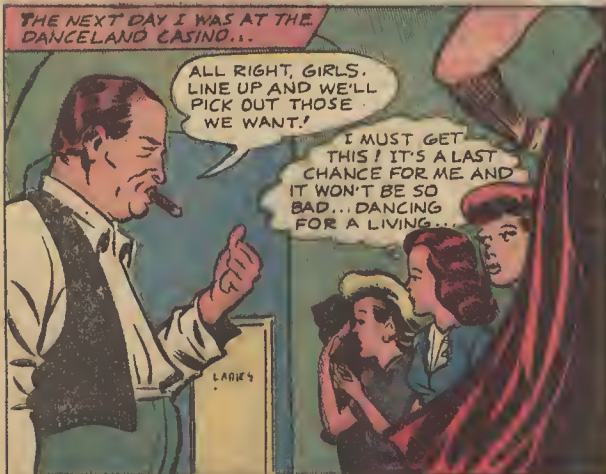
I'VE REACHED THE POINT WHERE I'LL TAKE ANY KIND OF A JOB THAT WILL GIVE ME AN INCOME... WAITRESS... CIGARETTE GIRL... ANYTHING AT ALL! WAIT! WHAT'S THIS... EXCELLENT INCOME... EASY WORK!



HIGH INCOME... WORK IS EASY AND PLEASANT... APPLY AT DANCELAND CASINO... NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED.

I COULD TAKE THIS JOB AND KEEP IT A SECRET FROM MOTHER AND DAD... TELL THEM THAT I'M DOING SOMETHING ELSE...

THE NEXT DAY I WAS AT THE DANCELAND CASINO...



ALL RIGHT, GIRLS. LINE UP AND WE'LL PICK OUT THOSE WE WANT!

I MUST GET THIS! IT'S A LAST CHANCE FOR ME AND IT WON'T BE SO BAD... DANCING FOR A LIVING...



GIRLS, WHEN I POINT AT YOU, TAKE TWO STEPS FORWARD... OTHERS REMAIN IN LINE.

YOU'VE GOT TO TELL ME TO STEP FORWARD.

YOU... MEAN... ME?

YES, GIRLIE, I MEAN YOU... SO HOP TO IT, KID!

ALL RIGHT! YOU GIRLS IN LINE MAY LEAVE. THERE WON'T BE CALLS FOR QUITE A WHILE. THANKS FOR COMING.



DON'T BE SO NERVOUS, KID! ALL I WANT TO KNOW IS IF YOU CAN DO A FEW BASIC STEPS, AND YOU CAN DANCE WITH THE BOYS WHO COME IN HERE! YOU COME DOWN TO THE OFFICE WITH ME.





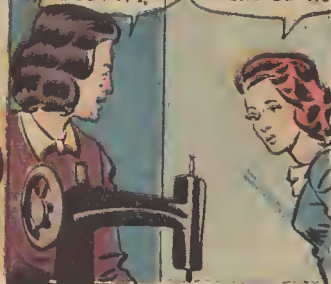
I GOT THE JOB. THEN I HAD TO EXPLAIN MY WORKING NIGHTS TO MY MOTHER...

I'M SO GLAD YOU GOT A JOB, BETTY. WITH MY SEWING WE SHOULD GET ALONG. TELL ME ABOUT IT!

THE OFFICE STAYS OPEN ALL NIGHT. IT'S SOME KIND OF A NEWS SERVICE.

IT MONITORS RADIO PROGRAMS ALL NIGHT... MAKES DIGESTS OF THE PROGRAMS AND THEN SENDS THESE DIGESTS TO THE CLIENTS WHO SUBSCRIBE TO THE SERVICE.

IT SOUNDS NICE... ALTHOUGH I DON'T CARE FOR THE NIGHT WORK TOO MUCH!



AFTER THE FIRST HURDLE OF DECEIVING MOTHER, I FOUND THE JOB WASN'T TOO BAD. NIGHT AFTER NIGHT I DANCED WITH MEN WHO HAD BOUGHT TICKETS FOR THE DANCES. THERE WERE ALL KINDS... NO TWO ALIKE...



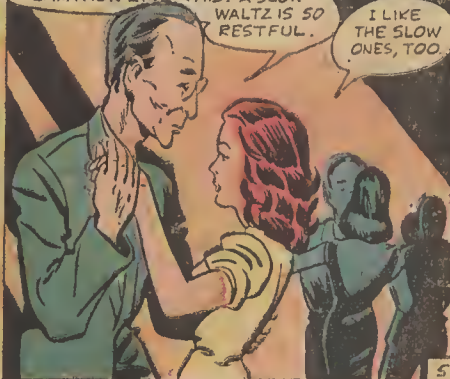
AIN'T THIS FUN, KID? I COULD DANCE LIKE THIS ALL NIGHT!

I HOPE YOU WON'T MIND IF I TAKE A REST!



AFTER THE PRESSURE OF BUSINESS ALL DAY LONG, I LOOK FORWARD TO A LITTLE RELAXATION LIKE THIS. A SLOW WALTZ IS SO RESTFUL.

I LIKE THE SLOW ONES, TOO.



THERE'S NOTHING LIKE IT...THE DIM LIGHTS...MY HEAD ON YOUR SHOULDER...THE SOFT MUSIC.

PLEASE STAND UP STRAIGHT AND PLEASE DON'T HOLD ME SO TIGHT!

WHEN I WAS A KID PEOPLE USED TO TELL ME I WAS SO GRACEFUL..I NEVER BELIEVED IT TILL I LEARNED HOW TO DANCE.

YES...OWW... YOU ARE GRACEFUL.

11 NIGHT AFTER NIGHT... WEEK AFTER WEEK... THE ROUTINE WAS THE SAME. ALWAYS DANCING WITH STRANGE MEN WHO MEANT NOTHING TO ME. THE ONE CONSOLATION WAS THE PAY-CHECK I RECEIVED AT THE END OF THE WEEK.

MY FEET ARE KILLING ME...

HELLO, MOM... PAY DAY!

HELLO, BETTY I HOPE YOU'RE NOT WORKING TOO HARD.

MOM, HERE'S THE MONEY FOR THE WEEK. ARE WE MEETING ALL OF OUR BILLS?

YES, BUT WE MAY HAVE A LITTLE TROUBLE WITH THE BANK...RENEWING OUR NOTE. WELL...WE'LL SEE...

ONE NIGHT AT THE DANCE HALL THERE WAS A COMMOTION...

COME ON, SELL ME A LONG STRIP.. WE WANT TO GET PLENTY OF DANCES!

BUT, FELLOWS, I TELL YOU THIS ISN'T MY IDEA OF A GOOD WAY TO SPEND AN EVENING.

COME ON, FRED, BE A SPORT! IT'S ALL IN FUN. RELAX AND HAVE A GOOD TIME!

COME ON, KID, DON'T BE LIKE THAT! YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN THE REST OF THE GIRLS!

PLEASE LET GO OF MY ARM OR I'LL HAVE TO CALL THE MANAGER AND THEN I'LL LOSE MY JOB! I DON'T GO OUT WITH THE MEN I MEET HERE!

EXCUSE ME! I BELIEVE I'M ENTITLED TO ASK THIS YOUNG LADY TO DANCE WITH ME! I HAVE A FISTFUL OF TICKETS, AND A FIST FOR YOU, FELLOW, IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR TROUBLE!!

NO...NO...GO AHEAD!

THANKS VERY MUCH. I WAS AFRAID I WAS GOING TO HAVE A LITTLE TROUBLE, AND I CAN'T AFFORD TROUBLE!

FORGET IT! I JUST HOPE YOU DON'T LUMP ME WITH YOUR REGULAR CUSTOMERS. I DIDN'T WANT TO COME HERE BUT THEY MADE ME.

I'M A LAWYER...
JUST GOT STARTED
WITH A GOOD FIRM.
IF YOU EVER HAVE
TROUBLE LET ME
KNOW!

THIS IS MY
FIRST JOB.
I WASN'T
ABLE TO GET
ANYTHING ELSE.
I'M ONE OF
THOSE GIRLS WITH
NO EXPERIENCE.
AT ONE TIME
MY FAMILY DIDN'T
WANT ME
TO WORK.

LOOK, I HAVE MY CAR
HERE. AFTER YOU'RE
FINISHED WORKING, I
COULD DRIVE YOU HOME.

NO THANKS.
THE APPROACH
WAS DIFFERENT,
BUT THE ANGLE
IS JUST THE
SAME.

BEFORE HE
LEFT HE TOLD
ME HIS NAME
WAS FRED
LAMBETH. HE
ALSO SAID
THAT I WAS
RIGHT IN TURN-
ING DOWN HIS
OFFER. I
THOUGHT THAT
WAS THE LAST
TIME I WOULD
SEE HIM, BUT
HE RETURNED
THREE OR FOUR
TIMES A WEEK
FOR A NUMBER
OF WEEKS. FIN-
ALLY, ONE NIGHT,
I ACCEPTED
HIS OFFER...

HERE YOU ARE,
BETTY. ARE YOU
CONVINCED NOW
THAT I'M NOT THE
OGRE YOU THOUGHT
I WAS?

CONVINCED, FRED, BUT
YOU MUST ADMIT THAT
I HAVE TO BE CARE-
FUL WORKING IN THE
KIND OF PLACE I DO!

AND WHEN FRED TOOK ME HOME...

GOOD NIGHT, BETTY.
IT WAS A LOT OF
FUN BEING WITH
YOU. IF IT'S ALL
RIGHT WITH YOU,
I'D LIKE TO SEE
YOU OFTEN.

YOU'RE VERY
NICE, FRED.
I'D LIKE TO
SEE YOU
OFTEN.



BATING WITH
FRED LAMBETH
BECAME A STEADY
THING AND IT
FINALLY DAWNED
ON ME THAT WE
WERE FALLING
IN LOVE WITH
EACH OTHER. I
KNEW WE WERE
IN LOVE. WHEN
AFTER MONTHS
OF SEEING EACH
OTHER...WE
WENT ON A
PICNIC...

THE SUN
GOES DOWN
EARLY THIS
TIME OF
YEAR.

BETTY, THERE'S
SOMETHING YOU
SHOULD KNOW.
I DON'T MAKE TOO
MUCH NOW, BUT
I'M PUSHING FOR
A JUNIOR PARTNER
SHIP...

...AND IT'S HARD
FOR ME TO SAY
THIS...BUT...I'M
NOT YET READY
TO MARRY...I
MUST BE MORE
FIRMLY ESTAB-
LISHED.

THINGS WILL
WORK OUT,
FRED.

I LOVE YOU SO,
BETTY.

HOLD ME
TIGHT,
FRED!

WHY SHOULD
WE WAIT? I
KNOW I LOVE
HIM AND HE
LOVES ME. IF
ONLY I CAN
MAKE HIM DE-
CIDE TO MARRY
ME RIGHT AWAY.

I SANK DEEP...DEEP...DEEP INTO FRED'S ARMS
...KNOWING THAT IT WAS FINE AND RIGHT TO BE
LOVED BY HIM AND...TO LOVE HIM...

ONE EVENING, WHEN I WAS NOT WORKING...

I'LL BE OUT OF TOWN FOR A WEEK ON A CASE FOR THE FIRM, BETTY. I'LL SEE YOU AS SOON AS I GET BACK.

I'LL MISS YOU, FRED.

IF ONLY I COULD SPEED UP OUR GETTING MARRIED.

FRED, I'VE BEEN THINKING. IF IT'S ONLY MONEY STANDING BETWEEN US AND GETTING MARRIED, I COULD WORK WHILE YOU'RE ESTABLISHING YOURSELF.

NO, BETTY, IT WOULDN'T LOOK RIGHT FOR A LAWYER'S WIFE TO WORK.

LATER...

IT'S GOOD-BY FOR A WHILE, BETTY. BE JUST A LITTLE PATIENT.

IT'S SO HARD TO BE PATIENT.

WHY WAS I IN SUCH A RUSH TO FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM? NOW HE'S PUTTING ME OFF.

WITH FRED GONE, LIFE DRIFTED ALONG IN THE PATTERN THAT WAS ESTABLISHED FOR ME... HOPING... AND WAITING. ONE DAY THAT WEEK, MOTHER AND I GOT GOOD NEWS...

MR. CARTER WILL BE ABLE TO START GOING TO THE OFFICE AGAIN. IF HE'S CAREFUL HE'LL BE FINE.

OH, DAD, WE'RE SO GLAD!

THIS IS... SOB... SO WONDERFUL!

LATER...

WELL, THE NIGHTMARE IS OVER! MONEY TROUBLES ARE OVER, BOTH OF YOU GIRLS CAN STOP WORKING AS OF TONIGHT!

DAD, YOU'RE WONDERFUL!

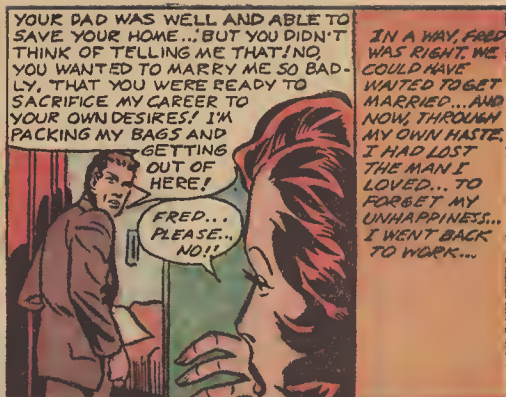
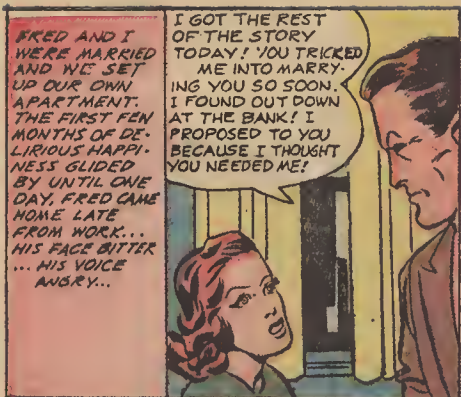
AT THE END OF THE WEEK, FRED RETURNED. BEFORE I WAS ABLE TO TELL HIM THE GOOD NEWS, FRED GAVE ME SOME NEWS OF HIS OWN...

NO, BETTY, LET ME TALK FIRST! I DID SOME BUSINESS FOR THE BANK WHILE I WAS OUT OF TOWN AND I LEARNED THAT THE BANK WAS PLANNING TO FORECLOSE ON YOUR HOME.

I'M ASKING YOU TO MARRY ME... NOT OUT OF PITY... BUT OUT OF LOVE... AND YOU NEED A LITTLE HELP NOW.

YES... YES... FRED... YES!!

SHOULD I TELL HIM THAT DAD IS WELL?



LOVE MUST BE FAITHFUL..

TED and I are going to be married in two weeks. I put him off for months but last night I finally said yes. Rumors of his past frightened me at first. I wondered if Ted could ever be faithful to one woman.

"Sure, I've had girl friends but I didn't love them," he persisted. "Joy, it's you I love—only you! This is different."

His passionate kiss on my lips swayed me. I believed him. "All right, Ted," I answered. "I do trust you now and I love you. We'll be married on my birthday."

We're planning on living in his apartment and I was anxious to move my own things in and fix it up to my taste before our marriage. Ted didn't like the idea at first because he is leaving town for a week on business.

"I don't like you to be there alone in the evening, Joy," he said. "Can't you wait until I return?"

"What's wrong with my being alone?" I asked. "Surely I'll be alone some evenings after we are married."

"Well, all right, but don't answer the doorbell or the phone. You can never tell who will come prowling around those halls."

A germ of suspicion entered my thoughts but I put it away quickly. Ted just wanted me to be safe. He kissed me good-by and left with the promise that we would be the happiest married couple in the world—in two short weeks.

It was going to be fun fixing up the apartment. At the office I watched the clock all day. When the five o'clock bell rang, I was the first one out of the building. I planned on fixing supper there and spending the whole evening rearranging furniture and making plans. A bachelor apartment needs a woman's touch and I intended to make it

as comfortable and beautiful as possible. Colorful new drapes, pictures, coffee tables, and my own knickknacks would make a home out of what now was only a place to live.

I was busy moving things around when the doorbell rang. Before I stopped to think and remember Ted's warning, I had opened the door. A strange man stood on the threshold. I tried to close the door but he pushed his way in before I could protest. Ted's words came back to me. "You never can tell who will come prowling around those halls."

"Nice little setup, isn't it?" he said. "When did you move in, Cutie?"

"Please leave! Go!"

"Not so fast, little girl. I really didn't expect to find you here. Everyone knows that Ted isn't married."

He walked past me and made himself comfortable in an easy chair. "How about a drink, Honey?" he drawled.

"I'm not giving you a drink and I want you to leave immediately." Panic seized me and I heard myself shouting.

"Calm down," he continued. "Ted is one of my best friends. Don't act so innocent. I know what's going on here. You can't kid me."

"What do you mean?" All the gossip that I had ever heard about Ted came back to me. What did this man think was going on? I tried to calm down as I spoke. "For your information Ted and I are going to be married . . ."

"Yeah, I know. They all say that. Same old line! What else did he promise you? You know—you look too young and pretty to get mixed up in stuff like this."

My fury rose and I stumbled to the phone. "Leave immediately or I'll call the desk. I don't care if you are Ted's friend—you're getting out of here! I'll—I'll say you're a thief who broke in here!"

He jumped up quickly when I took the phone off the hook. "Okay—you win," he shouted. "Put that phone down. Want to get me in trouble? I only came to make a little friendly call. I'm leaving but I won't be far away. You're too pretty to lose, now that I've just found you."

He left and I ran to the door and double-locked it. My heart was pounding. I leaned against the door breathlessly. What did he know about Ted? What was he insinuating? I listened and heard him walk a few paces down the hall. He meant what he said—he would wait for me. I realized I would have to stay the night in Ted's apartment. I didn't dare leave now. Tomorrow morning I would get up early and leave for work with the others in the building. Then I would have the protection of the tenants leaving for work.

I couldn't do any more work. My mind and heart were filled with doubts and fears about Ted. His best friend should know him, I told myself, and his best friend had just told me Ted's promises meant nothing. I stared around the room that had once held all my hopes and dreams. It was now an empty shell without meaning. All I wanted to do was run from the apartment and run from Ted. I never wanted to see him again.

I turned off the lights and tiptoed to the bedroom. There seemed to be something sinister lurking in every shadow. I kept asking myself how I had ever trusted Ted and promised to marry him. I must have been out of my mind not to believe the gossip about him. In the morning, I planned to leave town and forget Ted and my heart-break.

All night I tossed and turned. Every sound became enlarged. I pictured the stranger trying to get in a window or breaking

down the door. At the first streak of dawn, I got up and dressed. I couldn't bear to be in the apartment another minute. My mistrust of Ted had grown into hate. Perhaps Ted himself had sent his friend.

Tears were streaming down my face when I left the apartment. I stood in the entrance a minute looking up and down the street. I wanted to hail a cab and go home to my lonely room—which now seemed like a haven of peace.

A cab drew up and I ran to it. I stepped back with fear when I saw Ted opening the door. "Joy—Joy, my own darling," he shouted as he ran to me and crushed me in his arms. "You're safe! I took the first plane back when I heard the news over the radio."

"What? I don't know what you're talking about."

"There was a burglary here last night—in my building. The thief poses as a friend and gets information ahead of time on tenants. Then he waits for the right time to strike—usually when the tenant is out of town. He forces his way in. But, Joy, my darling, you don't want to hear all that. You're safe! I thought you were in danger."

He kissed me and all my mistrust and fears melted away with my tears of relief. "Ted—I—I was in danger—danger of giving you up. I mistrusted you and hated you last night. Ted, can you ever forgive me?"

He led me to the cab and didn't say a word until we were rolling. Then he took me in his arms. "Joy, you're going home right now and get a good night's sleep. We're going to be married as soon as we can get a license. I can't afford to put you in any more danger. I'm taking no chances on you ever changing your mind again."

He held me tight and I leaned my head on his shoulder. Gossip and a stranger's lies had almost ruined my life and lost me the man I loved. Never again will I listen to anyone's hearsay. Love must not hold distrust if it is to survive.

I LONGED FOR A MAN'S ARMS TO HOLD ME CLOSE; I WAS STARVED FOR A FEW SWEET COMPLIMENTS AND THE OTHER LITTLE ATTENTIONS THAT EVERY YOUNG GIRL CRAVES... BUT MY PARENTS KEPT ROMANCE AND PARTIES FROM ME WITH A STUBBORN WILL. I ENDURED WORKING BEHIND A STORE COUNTER LONG HOURS A DAY, AND I ENDURED THE ABUSE, DRUDGERY AND LONELINESS AT HOME UNTIL, DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

I WAS "STARVED FOR LOVE"



IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT ONE SHORT YEAR COULD HAVE WROUGHT SUCH A CHANGE IN ME. WHEN I WAS 17...

COMIN' TO THE PICNIC AFTER SCHOOL, ETH?

YOU BET! BUT I HAVE TO BE HOME BEFORE DARK!

THAT'S AWFUL! WHY, I'M ALLOWED TO STAY UP TILL TEN!

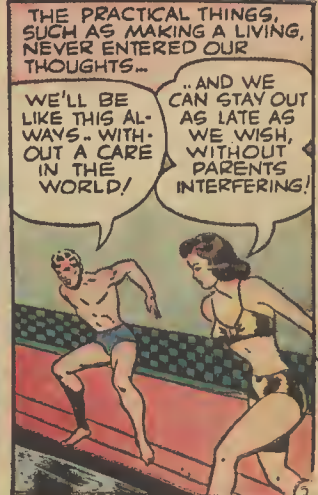
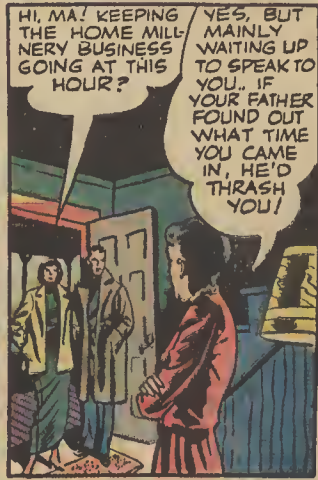
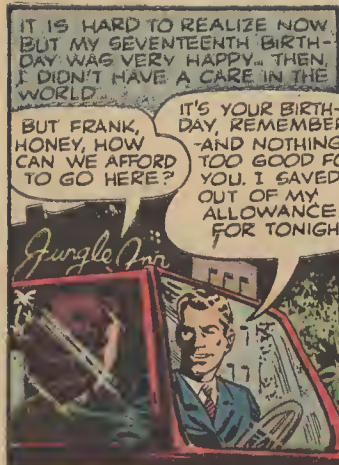
SCHOOL SLOW



...AND WHEN I WAS 18...

ANOTHER YEAR AT THAT STORE AND IN THIS HOUSE AND I'LL BE FIT FOR AN OLD LADIES' HOME.. AN OLD MAID'S HOME. I SHOULD SAY...





THE ONLY REALITIES TO BREAK INTO OUR DELIGHTFUL REVERIE WERE SCHOOL AND HOME...

I MUST GET HOME, FRANK... IT'S TWELVE AND MOTHER WILL BE WILD! FATHER WOULD KILL ME IF HE KNEW.

WHY DO WE HAVE TO HAVE PARENTS? SOME DAY I'LL TELL YOUR FATHER OFF!

AS WE NEARED MY HOUSE...

OH OH! LOOK AT THE LIGHTS IN MY HOUSE... SOMETHING'S WRONG... I'M SCARED, FRANK!!

I'LL GO IN WITH YOU, ETHEL... IF YOUR FATHER DARES STRIKE YOU, I'LL...

I PERSUADED HIM THAT I COULD HANDLE IT MYSELF... AND AS I WAS LEAVING HIM AT THE DOOR...

WHAT IS IT, DOCTOR... -WHAT'S WRONG?

IT'S YOUR MOTHER, CHILD... SHE'S HAD A STROKE... RESULT OF OVERWORK AND WORRY OVER YOUR LATE HOURS... SHE MAY PULL THROUGH WITH CARE

PA WAS IN A FURY...

YOU'RE TO BLAME FOR THIS! IF I DIDN'T THINK IT'D KILL YOUR MOTHER, I'D BEAT YOU WITHIN AN INCH OF YOUR LIFE, YOU LITTLE TRAMP!

I'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG, PA -

HOW ARE WE GOING TO LIVE NOW, WITH YOUR MOTHER'S INCOME STOPPED AND THE DOCTOR'S BILLS TO PAY?

PLEASE PA! LET ME SPEAK TO MA NOW! WE'LL WORK IT OUT SOMEHOW!

I'LL MAKE UP FOR IT ALL, MOTHER DEAR! I'LL NURSE YOU... QUIT SCHOOL AND GET A JOB... I'LL COOK FOR PA... ANYTHING, EVERYTHING-TO MAKE YOU WELL AGAIN!

THERE, THERE, CHILD... I KNOW YOU'LL DO YOUR BEST.

MY CAREFREE DAYS WERE OVER. I GOT A JOB IN A FIVE-AND-TEN CENT STORE...

PLEASE, MISS. I'VE BEEN WAITING A HALF HOUR!

WHERE IS THE RIBBON COUNTER, MISS?

ONE AT A TIME, PLEASE. I'M DOING MY BEST!

I ARRIVED HOME EXHAUSTED AND COOKED PA'S MEAL BEFORE HE WENT TO WORK... ON THE LATE SHIFT IN THE METAL FACTORY.

SNAP IT UP, ETHEL! I DON'T WANT TO MISS MY BUS!

I'M DOING MY BEST, PA!

SOLDIERS

SAILORS

WACS

MORTARS

MARINES

PT BOATS

HOWITZERS

TRUCKS

CANNONS

BOMBERS

TANKS

CRUISERS

BATTLESHIPS

PT BOATS

MARINES

WACS

WACS

SAILORS

SOLDIERS

SOLDIERS

SAILORS

WACS

WACS

MARINES

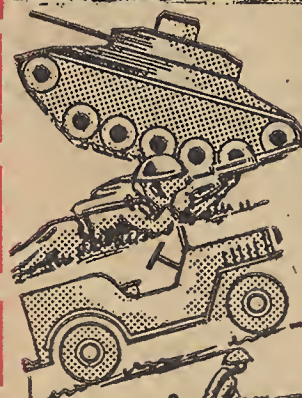
PT BOATS

BATTLESHIPS

CRUISERS

TANKS

BOMBERS



MACHINE GUNS

BAZOOKAS

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JETS

50 COMBAT ACTION PLASTIC TOYS

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I enclose \$3.00 for my set. Rush your 50-piece Fighting Force set prepaid.

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I TOOK CARE OF MA'S NEEDS BEFORE SHE WENT TO SLEEP.

OH - HERE YOU ARE AT LAST! I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ARRIVE!

IT WAS THE BEST I COULD DO, MA!



ETHEL'S TOO BUSY TO HAVE BOY FRIENDS AND I DON'T WANT YOU JITTERBUGS CLUTTERING UP MY HOUSE... YOUNG SQUIRTS LIKE YOU SHOULD BE IN BED, ANYWAY!

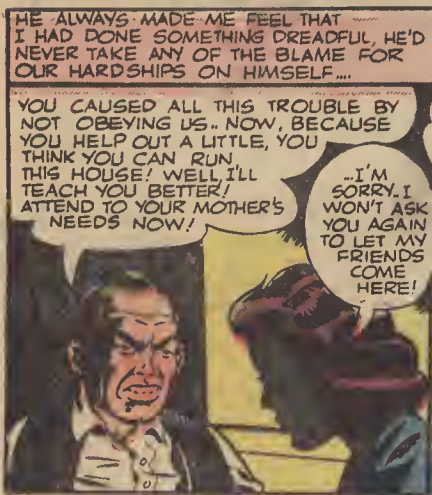
OKAY, MR. NOLAN. I WON'T BOTHER YOU ANY MORE!



...PA'S HARSH TONE HAD SHATTERED MY ONLY DREAM, SENT IT TINKLING TO THE GROUND LIKE FRAGMENTS OF GLASSWARE BROKEN BY A DISCORDANT NOTE..

BUT OTHER GIRLS OF MY AGE AT THE STORE HAVE FRIENDS VISIT THEM, AND..

YOUR MOTHER IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY! WE CAN'T THINK OF PLEASURE WHILE SHE'S SICK!



HE ALWAYS MADE ME FEEL THAT I HAD DONE SOMETHING DREADFUL, HE'D NEVER TAKE ANY OF THE BLAME FOR OUR HARDSHIPS ON HIMSELF...

YOU CAUSED ALL THIS TROUBLE BY NOT OBEYING US.. NOW, BECAUSE YOU HELP OUT A LITTLE, YOU THINK YOU CAN RUN THIS HOUSE! WELL I'LL TEACH YOU BETTER! ATTEND TO YOUR MOTHER'S NEEDS NOW!

..I'M SORRY. I WON'T ASK YOU AGAIN TO LET MY FRIENDS COME HERE!



..ALL MY WAGES WENT TO THE HOUSE...

OH, DEAR, THIS JUST COVERS THE DOCTOR'S BILL THIS WEEK..

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, MA.. I'LL SKIP LUNCHES FOR A FEW DAYS!



...A YEAR PASSED.. THERE WAS NO MORE FUN FOR ME.. I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A NEW DRESS TO WEAR...

DON'T FORGET YOUR MOTHER'S SLEEPING PILLS.. AND HER COCOA..

I'LL TAKE THEM TO HER BEFORE I DRY THE DISHES..



PLEASE, DEAR, CAN YOU GIVE ME TWO PILLS SO I CAN SLEEP BETTER?

NOW, MA, YOU KNOW WHAT DR. JENKING SAID.. ONE ONLY BEFORE RETIRING!



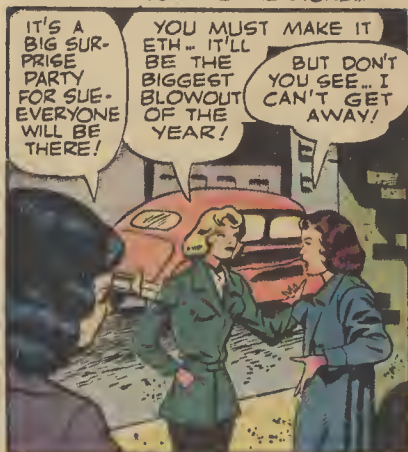
..WHEN ALONE IN MY ROOM I THOUGHT ABOUT FRANK.. I HAD NOT SEEN HIM SINCE PA'S INSULT..



NIGHT AFTER NIGHT I CRIED MYSELF TO SLEEP, PRAYING...

PLEASE COME TO ME, FRANK DARLING! TAKE ME AWAY FROM THIS AWFUL LIFE AND MAKE ME HAPPY AGAIN!

THEN, ONE AFTERNOON, AS
WE WERE LEAVING THE STORE...



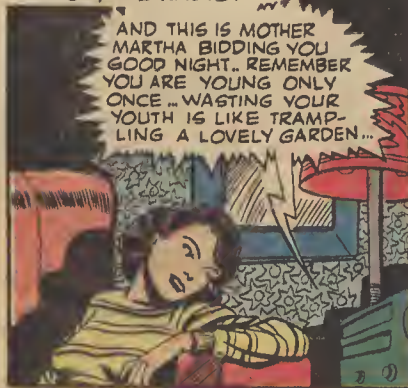
LISTEN, KID..DON'T BE A FOOL... THERE'LL BE LOADS OF BOYS THERE ...EVEN HANDSOME TOMMY FARRELL IS COMING..SNEAK OUT FOR A WHILE WHEN YOUR MA GOES TO SLEEP!



YOU'LL BE MISSING THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE IF YOU DON'T COME, ETHEL!



AFTER PA HAD LEFT FOR WORK, I WAS ALONE THAT NIGHT WITH MY ONLY COMPANION, THE RADIO...



.....SO LAUGH AND BE GAY BEFORE OLD MAN AGE FADES THE BLOOM FROM YOUR CHEEKS... GOOD NIGHT...



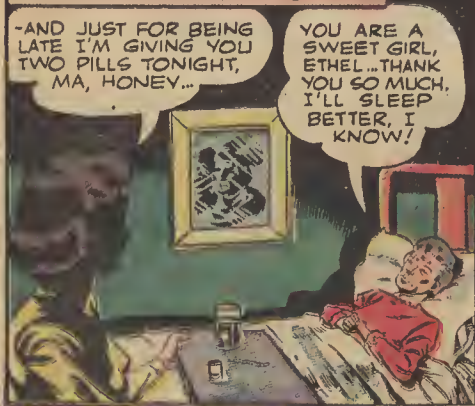
MOTHER'S VOICE WOKE ME FROM THE ROMANTIC TRANCE INTO WHICH THE WORDS HAD LULLED ME...

ETHEL! AREN'T YOU FORGETTING MY PILL?

OH! OH, YES, MA-I'M COMING RIGHT AWAY!



MY MIND WAS MADE UP, EVEN IF IT MEANT SUFFERING LATER, I WOULD ENJOY MYSELF TONIGHT...



EVEN CINDERELLA HAD A GOOD TIME, I REASONED, AS I SNEAKED OUT OF THE HOUSE AFTER I WAS SURE THAT MA WAS SLEEPING SOUNDLY...



THEIR WORDS OF GREETING
WERE LIKE MUSIC TO MY EARS...

IT WAS WONDERFUL
THAT YOU COULD
COME BABY-C'MON,
HURRY UP AND
JOIN THE FUN!

I WILL,
AND
BELIEVE
ME, I'M
GOING TO HAVE
FUN
TONIGHT!

-AND THIS IS THE WONDERFUL
ETHEL NOLAN I WAS TELLING
YOU ABOUT, TOMMY...

SHE'S MUCH MORE
WONDERFUL THAN
YOU SAID, BUT THEN
WORDS CAN'T DESCRIBE
DREAMS LIKE HER!

IT'S A
PLEASURE
TO KNOW
YOU, TOMMY...

IF THE WORLD IS AN OYSTER,
AS THEY SAY, I'VE
OPENED THE SHELL AND
FOUND A PRICELESS
PEARL!

JUST KEEP
ON TALKING
LIKE THAT IF
YOU WANT
ME TO FALL
IN LOVE
WITH YOU!

I KNEW HE WAS GIVING ME A
PRACTICED LINE, BUT, STARVED
AS I WAS FOR COMPLIMENTS, I
ADORED EVERY WORD OF IT...

TO HAVE YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH ME WOULD
BE LIKE HANDING ME THOSE TWINKLING STARS
ON THE MOON FOR A SILVER PLATTER AND
I WOULD BE UP IN HEAVEN WITH MY HEART
AND SOUL IN YOUR POSSESSION...

I COULD LISTEN
TO YOUR SWEET
WORDS ALL NIGHT
AND FOREVER, BUT
I MUST GO HOME
NOW!

MY SUBDUED LONGING FOR A
LITTLE HAPPINESS SUDDENLY
GAVE WAY AND I WAS IN HIS
ARMS

I WAS FRIGHTENED NOW AT
MY OWN BOLDNESS...

PLEASE TOMMY-
TAKE ME HOME
NOW...

I'LL GET
THE CAR
AND MEET
YOU OUT
FRONT...

WHY DID YOU TURN OFF THE
HIGHWAY, TOM...

WOULD
YOU DENY
ME ONE
MORE DROP
OF THE
NECTAR
FROM YOUR
LIPS?

YES, TOM, I DO LIKE
YOU... A LOT!

THAT'S
WHAT I
WANT
TO HEAR...



HEY, YOU TWO!
COME OUT OF
THAT CAR WITH
YOUR HANDS
UP!

WHAT'S THE
MATTER,
OFFICER? WE
WERE JUST...

WE WERE ONLY KISSING,
OFFICER...THERE'S NO
LAW AGAINST
THAT, IS
THERE?

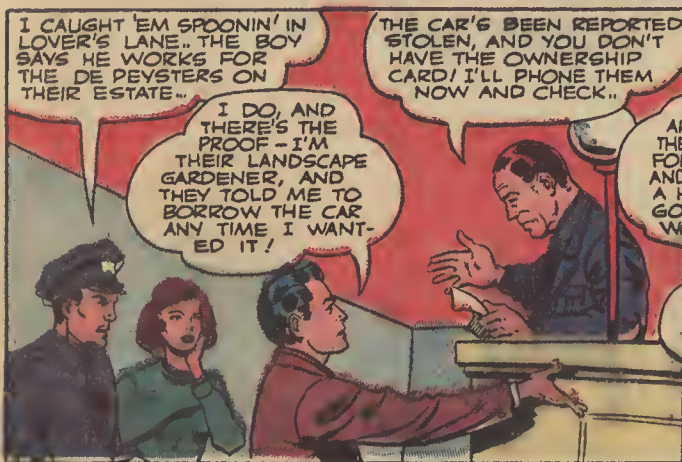
I WAS
YOUNG ONCE
TOO, BUT WE
DIDN'T STEAL
CARS TO DO
OUR PETTING
IN... GET IN,
BOTH OF
YOU!



"A FEELING OF PANIC CAME
OVER ME... WAS THIS ALL PART
OF A HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE?..."

PLEASE, OFFICER!
LET ME GO HOME!
OH, TOMMY, HOW
COULD YOU DO
THIS TO ME?

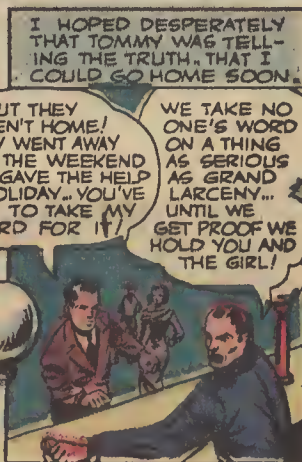
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT,
DEAR. I'LL
EXPLAIN
EVERYTHING
AT THE STA-
TION AND
YOU'LL BE
HOME
SOON!



I CAUGHT 'EM SPOONIN' IN
LOVER'S LANE.. THE BOY
SAYS HE WORKS FOR
THE DE PEYSTERS ON
THEIR ESTATE...

I DO, AND
THERE'S THE
PROOF - I'M
THEIR LANDSCAPE
GARDENER, AND
THEY TOLD ME TO
BORROW THE CAR
ANY TIME I WANT-
ED IT!

THE CAR'S BEEN REPORTED
STOLEN, AND YOU DON'T
HAVE THE OWNERSHIP
CARD! I'LL PHONE THEM
NOW AND CHECK..



I HOPED DESPERATELY
THAT TOMMY WAS TELL-
ING THE TRUTH.. THAT I
COULD GO HOME SOON..

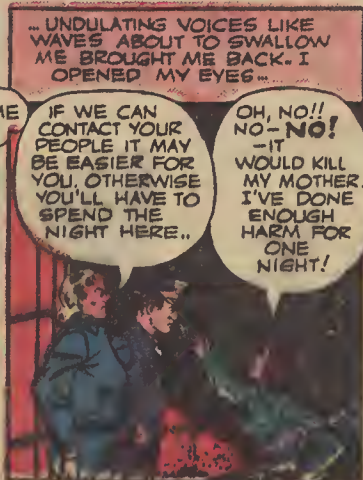
BUT THEY
AREN'T HOME!
THEY WENT AWAY
FOR THE WEEKEND
AND GAVE THE HELP
A HOLIDAY.. YOU'VE
GOT TO TAKE MY
WORD FOR IT!

WE TAKE NO
ONE'S WORD
ON A THING
AS SERIOUS
AS GRAND
LARCENY...
UNTIL WE
GET PROOF WE
HOLD YOU AND
THE GIRL!



THOSE WORDS CAME LIKE
A VISE TIGHTENING AT MY
TEMPLES.. I FELT MY
KNEES BUCKLING..

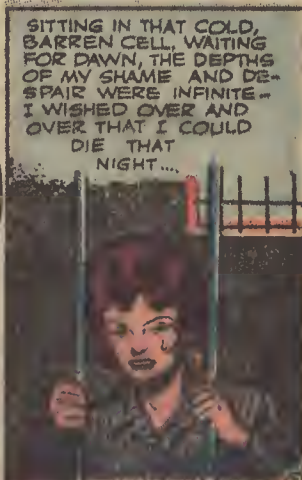
QUICK, MATRON! BRING SOME
WATER! A GIRL'S FAINTED
OUT HERE!



...UNDULATING VOICES LIKE
WAVES ABOUT TO SWALLOW
ME BROUGHT ME BACK.. I
OPENED MY EYES...

IF WE CAN
CONTACT YOUR
PEOPLE IT MAY
BE EASIER FOR
YOU, OTHERWISE
YOU'LL HAVE TO
SPEND THE
NIGHT HERE..

OH, NO!!
NO-NO!
-IT
WOULD KILL
MY MOTHER!
I'VE DONE
ENOUGH
HARM FOR
ONE
NIGHT!



SITTING IN THAT COLD,
BARREN CELL, WAITING
FOR DAWN, THE DEPTHS
OF MY SHAME AND DE-
SPAIR WERE INFINITE..
I WISHED OVER AND
OVER THAT I COULD
DIE THAT
NIGHT...

FINALLY I MUST HAVE DOZED OFF OUT OF SHEER EXHAUSTION... THE MATRON SHOOK ME AWAKE WITH THE DREADED MESSAGE THAT MY FATHER WAS WAITING FOR ME...

IS THERE ANYWHERE I CAN GO AND GET FIXED UP A LITTLE? -I MUST LOOK TERRIBLE...

WHY SURE!! JUST RING FOR ANNETTE, OUR FRENCH MAID... SHE'LL DIRECT YOU TO THE POWDER ROOM... WHATYA THINK THIS IS - A HOTEL?!



AS I EXPECTED, PA RANTED AND RAVED, CALLING ME TERRIBLE NAMES AND THREATENING ME...

YOU DIRTY, ROTTEN, UNGRATEFUL LITTLE...

EASY, MR. NOLAN.

QUIET A MOMENT WHILE I GET THIS CALL!



IT WAS ALL A MISTAKE... THE BUTLER REPORTED THE CAR STOLEN, NOT KNOWING TOM HAD TAKEN IT.. MR. DE PEYSTER SENDS HIS APOLOGIES, MISS, AND YOU HAVE MINE AS WELL.. I THINK YOUR FATHER OWES YOU A BIGGER ONE THAN THE REST OF US...

BUT FATHER HAD OTHER IDEAS..

I'LL APOLOGIZE TO HER WHEN I GET HOME, ALL RIGHT! EACH TIME I HIT HER WITH THIS BELT I'LL SAY "I'M SORRY" TILL SHE CAN'T WALK FOR A MONTH!!

COME BACK HERE, NOLAN. I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!



DON'T YOU KNOW YOUNG PEOPLE MUST HAVE SOME FUN? THAT'S WHY POLICE BACK UP YOUTH CLUBS.. EITHER YOU LET HER GO OUT OR HAVE HER FRIENDS IN.. OTHERWISE THE BLAME IS ON YOU IF SHE GETS INTO TROUBLE!

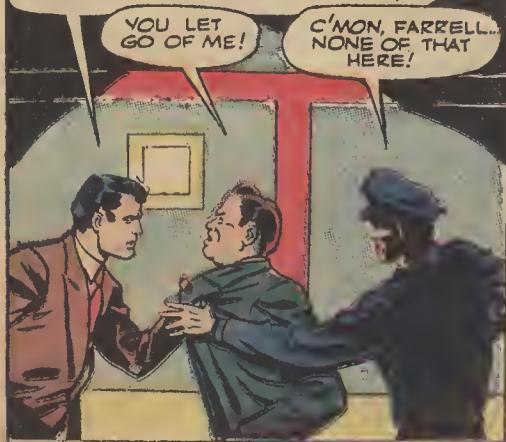
ADVICE IS CHEAP - GO CATCH SOME CROOKS!



IF YOU SO MUCH AS TOUCH HER, I'LL PERSONALLY BEAT YOU TO A PULP!

YOU LET GO OF ME!

C'MON, FARRELL... NONE OF THAT HERE!



PA STALKED OUT, MUTTERING THREATS.. TOMMY DROVE ME HOME AND WE STOPPED ON THE WAY...

SOME DAY I'LL MAKE UP FOR THE NIGHT OF HORROR I CAUSED YOU, ETHEL!

IT WAS ALL MY FAULT... I SHOULDN'T HAVE EVEN TRIED FOR ANY HAPPINESS!



FATE THREW US TOGETHER, ETHEL, AND I'VE ALWAYS GOTTEN ALONG PRETTY WELL WITH THE OLD GIRL.. IN FACT, SHE SENT ME HERE TO BRING YOU THE JOY YOU DESERVE!

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, TOM.. AND IF I NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN, YOU BROUGHT ME JOY LAST NIGHT!

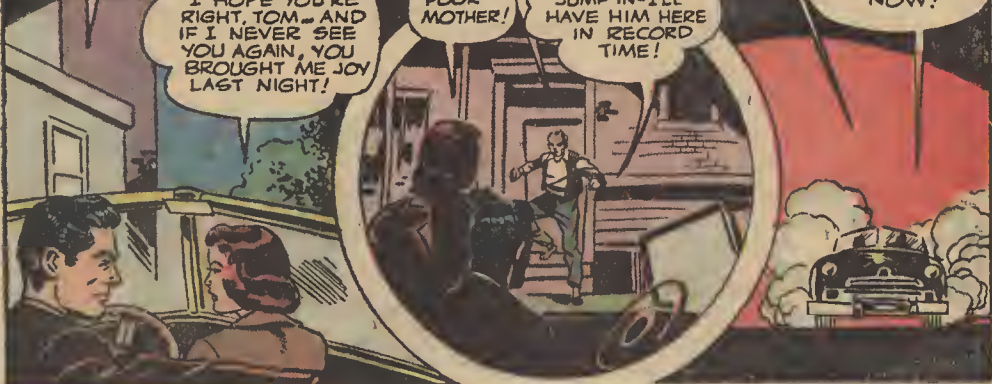
ETHEL/ ETHEL/ CALL DR. JENKING- QUICK! YOUR MOTHER'S HAD ANOTHER ATTACK! HURRY!

OH, POOR MOTHER!

C'MON, ETHEL, JUMP IN- I'LL HAVE HIM HERE IN RECORD TIME!

FASTER, TOMMY- OH PLEASE GO FASTER!

MY FOOT'S ON THE FLOOR NOW!



DR. JENKINS FOUND MA VERY LOW.. MY TORTURED MIND WAS ON THE VERGE OF SNAPPING AS I WAITED FOR A REPORT... FINALLY..

HOW IS SHE?/ HOW IS SHE???

SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT. WANTS TO SEE YOU RIGHT AWAY.. AFTER THAT I WANT TO SEE YOU TOO.

GO TO YOUR MOTHER, ETHEL!



YOU DID NOTHING WRONG, DEAR ... IT WAS I... AND YOUR FATHER. WHO WRONGED YOU. I HOPED THAT EXTRA PILL WOULD KILL ME.. SO YOU'D BE FREE TO FIND A LITTLE HAPPINESS.. WITHOUT ME TO CARE FOR, YOU COULD'VE BEEN MARRIED AND HAVE A LIFE OF YOUR OWN..



LYING HERE ALL THESE MONTHS, I'VE THOUGHT OF MY OWN WASTED YOUTH.. HOW I SLAVED ON THE FARM TO KEEP IT GOING.. HOW I WAS AN OLD WOMAN AT 25 WHEN I MARRIED YOUR FATHER TO GET AWAY FROM IT... HAVE SOME FUN AND YOU'LL MAKE ME HAPPY!

MEANWHILE...

THESE ARE, DOCTOR'S ORDERS.. THE HEALTH.. THE VERY LIVES OF YOUR WIFE AND DAUGHTER DEPEND ON IT. ALLOW THAT GIRL, INDEED, ENCOURAGE HER, TO SEE FRIENDS OFTEN.. THE RESPONSIBILITY RESTS ON YOUR SHOULDERS...



LOVE IS LIKE MEDICINE.. IF THE PATIENT WAITS TOO LONG, IT IS JUST WASTED.. GOODNESS KNOWS YOU NEED A TONIC!

THANKS, DOCTOR- I'LL TRY TO FOLLOW YOUR ORDERS!



AT WORK NOTHING SEEMED CHANGED...I IGNORED THE WHISPERINGS AROUND ME..

SURE, IT'S OKAY..HER FATHER CALLED ME.. WILL YOU JOIN US?

WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR ANYTHING!

AT QUITTING TIME I WAS CALLED TO THE MANAGER'S OFFICE.."THIS IS IT." I THOUGHT."NO JAILBIRDS CAN WORK HERE!"..

"AND SO, NOW THAT YOU'VE BEEN HERE A YEAR, AND YOUR WORK IS MORE THAN SATISFACTORY, WE ARE GIVING YOU A RAISE AND PUTTING YOU IN CHARGE OF COUNTERS A, D, AND F..

WH-WHY- THANKS- THANK YOU. I-I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!!

I HURRIED HOME, EAGER TO TELL MA OF MY GOOD LUCK.

HYA, FUGITIVE-- WELCOME HOME!

C'MON IN- THE COKE'S FINE!

WH-? WHAT'S HAPPEN- ING??

AS THEY PULLED ME INTO THE ROOM, TEARS OF JOY BLURRED MY EYES, BUT I LOOKED FOR ONE I WANTED TO SEE MOST... HE WAS NOT THERE...

LOOKIN' FOR SOMEONE, KID? C'MON-YOUR MA WANTS TO SEE YA' RIGHT AWAY!

THE BIGGEST SURPRISE OF ALL AWAITED ME IN MOTHER'S ROOM..

WH-TOM!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?

JUST HAVING A FRIENDLY CHAT WITH YOUR PA...

TOM'S A FINE BOY, ETHEL... A FINE BOY!

BUT, MA-I HARDLY RECOGNIZE YOU! YOU LOOK LIKE YOUR OLD SELF AGAIN!

IT'S JUST THE REFLECTION OF YOUR JOY YOU SEE IN MY FACE!

LATER, TOM AND I MANAGED TO GET OUT UNSEEN..

FORGIVE ME FOR BEING IMPETUOUS AND RECEIVING YOUR PARENT'S PERMISSION FIRST, BUT WILL YOU MARRY ME -OR RATHER WHEN WILL YOU MARRY ME, FOR I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU!

I'D OF PINCHED HIM IF WE HADN'T DONE THAT!

YES, TOM- OH YES, MY BELOVED--AS SOON AS MOTHER IS WELL!

THE END

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MOST ANY
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BODY WITH

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AND
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